

Reply to Office Action and Amendment  
Serial No. 09/837,934  
March 31, 2003

*Book 1*  
*Good*  
a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disc portion, said rim terminating in a rim flange having a radially outer surface, said rim flange further having a lip at an axially outermost portion thereof;

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a trim ring secured to said wheel, said trim ring covering said lip and at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel; and

a cladding secured to said wheel;

said trim ring and said cladding being in an overlapping relationship in a radial direction.

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5. (Twice Amended) A composite wheel assembly comprising:

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a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disc portion, said rim portion terminating in a rim flange having a flange lip at an axially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange further having a radially inner surface and a radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner surface, said flange lip connecting said radially inner and outer surfaces;

a trim ring mounted to said wheel, said trim ring having a flange portion covering at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, and a U-shaped portion extending from said flange portion, said U-shaped portion having a radially outer wall covering at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel,

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 said U-shaped portion further having a radially inner wall covering said radially inner surface of said rim flange of said wheel, said U-shaped portion further having a lip portion extending from said radially outer wall to said radially inner wall of said trim ring whereby said trim ring covers at least a portion of said outboard surface and said rim flange to create a visible impression that said trim ring is an integral portion of said outboard surface of said wheel and not a separately attached component;

means for securing said trim ring to said wheel;

a cladding secured to at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, said cladding having a radially outermost periphery; and

means for securing said cladding to said wheel;

said trim ring and said cladding being in an overlapping relationship in a radial direction wherein said flange portion of said trim ring and said radially outer periphery of said cladding overlap.

24. (Twice Amended) A wheel covering combination for covering a wheel to produce a composite wheel assembly, said wheel covering comprising:

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 a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disc portion, said rim having a rim flange defined at a radially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange having a flange lip at an axially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange further having a radially inner

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surface and a radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner surface, said flange lip connecting said radially inner and outer surfaces;

a trim ring mounted to at least a portion of said rim flange of said wheel, said trim ring having a flange portion covering at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, said trim ring further having a U-shaped portion extending from said flange portion, said U-shaped portion covering said lip portion of said rim flange and at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel thereby conforming to at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel to provide a visible impression that said trim ring is actually part of said wheel;

a cladding secured to at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, said cladding having a radially outermost periphery; and

said trim ring and said cladding being in an overlapping relationship in a radial direction wherein said flange portion of said trim ring and said radially outer periphery of said cladding overlap.

25. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a composite wheel assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disc portion, said rim having a rim flange defined at a radially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange having a radially inner surface and a radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner

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